

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A solid detergent composition comprising:
 - (a) an effective amount of a cleaning agent to provide soil removal, wherein the cleaning agent comprises at least one of:
 - (i) surfactant;
 - (ii) source of alkalinity;
 - (iii) water conditioning agent; and
 - (iv) enzyme;
 - (b) an effective amount of a binding agent dispersed throughout the solid detergent composition to provide the detergent composition as a solid at room temperature, the binding agent comprising a result of mixing:
 - (i) about 10 wt.% to about 80 wt.% alkali metal carbonate;
 - (ii) about 1 wt.% to about 40 wt.% alkali metal bicarbonate; and
 - (iii) a sufficient amount of water[[]] to react with the alkali metal carbonate and the alkali metal bicarbonate;

wherein the solid detergent composition is provided as an extruded or cast solid as a result of a step of hardening.
2. (ORIGINAL) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the binding agent comprises alkali metal sesquicarbonate.
3. (ORIGINAL) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said alkali metal bicarbonate is provided as a reaction product of alkali metal carbonate and acid.

4. (ORIGINAL) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a builder comprising sodium tripolyphosphate, sodium nitrilotriacetate, or mixtures thereof.
5. (ORIGINAL) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition further comprises a builder comprising sodium tripolyphosphate, organic phosphate, amino carboxylate, or mixtures thereof.
6. (ORIGINAL) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning agent comprises a surfactant comprising at least one of a nonionic surfactant, an anionic surfactant, and a mixture thereof.
7. (CANCELED)
8. (ORIGINAL) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the cleaning agent comprises alkali metal carbonate monohydrate and anhydrous alkali metal carbonate.
9. (ORIGINAL) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a blend of two or more organophosphonate compounds, a blend of two or more aminoacetate compounds, or a blend of at least one organophosphonate compound and at least one aminoacetate compound.
10. (ORIGINAL) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is in the form of a pellet.
11. (ORIGINAL) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the solid composition is in the form of a block.
12. (CANCELED)

13. (ORIGINAL) A solid detergent composition according to claim 1, wherein the solid composition is in the form of a cast solid.

14. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for solidifying a detergent composition, the method comprising ~~a step of~~:

(a) mixing an effective amount of a cleaning agent to provide soil removal and an effective amount of a binding agent to solidify the detergent composition to form a mixture, the cleaning agent comprising at least one of:

- (i) surfactant;
- (ii) source of alkalinity;
- (iii) water conditioning agent; and
- (iv) enzyme;

the binding agent comprising a result of mixing:

- (i) about 10 wt.% to about 80 wt.% alkali metal carbonate;
- (ii) about 1 wt.% to about 40 wt.% alkali metal bicarbonate; and
- (iii) a sufficient amount of water [.] to react with the alkali metal carbonate and the alkali metal bicarbonate;

(b) casting or extruding the mixture; and

(c) hardening the mixture to form the solid detergent composition.

15. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 14, further comprising a step of:

(a) generating alkali metal bicarbonate by reacting alkali metal carbonate with acid.

16. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 15, wherein the acid comprises at least one of citric acid, sulfamic acid, adipic acid, succinic acid, and mixtures thereof.

17. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 14, wherein the binding agent comprises alkali metal sesquicarbonate.

18. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 14, wherein the step of mixing comprises extruding the composition in an extruder.

19. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 14, further comprising a step of:
- (a) solidifying the mixture of cleaning agent and binding agent.
20. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 14, further comprising a step of:
- (a) packaging the mixture of cleaning agent and binding agent.
21. (ORIGINAL) A method according to claim 14, wherein the composition comprises a blend of two or more organophosphonate compounds, a blend of two or more aminoacetate compounds, or a blend of at least one organophosphonate compound and at least one aminoacetate compound.
22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to claim 14, ~~further comprising a step of forming the composition~~ wherein the step of casting or extruding the mixture comprises extruding the mixture into a pellet.
23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to claim 14, ~~further comprising a step of forming the composition~~ wherein the step of casting or extruding the mixture comprises extruding the mixture into a block.
24. (CANCELED)
25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method according to claim 14, ~~further comprising a step of forming the composition~~ wherein the step of casting or extruding the mixture comprises casting the mixture into a cast solid.
26. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A solid detergent composition comprising:
- (a) an effective amount of a cleaning agent to provide soil removal, wherein the cleaning agent comprises at least one of:
 - (i) surfactant;
 - (ii) source of alkalinity;
 - (iii) water conditioning agent; and

- (iv) enzyme;
 - (b) an effective amount of a binding agent dispersed throughout the solid detergent composition to provide the detergent composition as a solid at room temperature, the binding agent comprising a result of mixing:
 - (i) about 10 wt.% to about 80 wt.% alkali metal carbonate;
 - (ii) about 1 wt.% to about 40 wt.% alkali metal bicarbonate;
 - (iii) alkali metal sesquicarbonate; and
 - (iv) a sufficient amount of water [[.]] to react with the alkali metal carbonate and the alkali metal bicarbonate;
- wherein the solid detergent composition is provided as an extruded or cast solid as a result of a step of hardening.

27. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for solidifying a detergent composition, the method comprising ~~a step of~~:

(a) mixing an effective amount of a cleaning agent to provide soil removal and an effective amount of a binding agent to solidify the detergent composition, the cleaning agent comprising at least one of:

- (i) surfactant;
- (ii) source of alkalinity;
- (iii) water conditioning agent; and
- (iv) enzyme;

the binding agent comprising a result of mixing:

- (i) about 10 wt.% to about 80 wt.% alkali metal carbonate;
 - (ii) about 1 wt.% to about 40 wt.% alkali metal bicarbonate;
 - (iii) alkali metal sesquicarbonate; and
 - (iv) a sufficient amount of water [[.]] to react with the alkali metal carbonate and the alkali metal bicarbonate;
- (b) casting or extruding the mixture; and
 - (c) hardening the mixture to form the solid detergent composition.

Support for Amendment

Independent claims 1, 14, 26, and 27 are amended to characterize the binding agent as comprising a result of mixing about 10 wt.% to about 80 wt.% alkali metal carbonate, about 1 wt.% to about 40 wt.% alkali metal bicarbonate, and a sufficient amount of water to react with the alkali metal carbonate and the alkali metal bicarbonate. This characterization is supported by the specification at, for example, page 21, lines 6-19.

Independent claims 1 and 26 are amended to characterize the solid detergent composition as being provided as an extruded or cast solid as a result of a step of hardening. This is supported by the specification at, for example, page 3, lines 3-21, and page 29, lines 21-28.

Independent claims 14 and 27 are amended to characterize the step of mixing as forming a mixture, and to include steps of casting or extruding the mixture and hardening the mixture to form the solid detergent composition. This amendment is supported by the specification at, for example, page 29, lines 21-28.

The amendment cancels claims 7, 12 and 24.

Claims 22, 23, and 25 are amended in view of the changes to claim 14. That is, claims 22, 23, and 25 further characterize the step of casting or extruding the mixture of claim 14.

The amendment does not introduce new matter, and entry thereof is requested. Upon entry, claims 1-11, 13-23, and 25-27 are active in this application.